

therefor -- Con II or Super Controller Model A --.

In The Claims

Amend claim 1 as follows:

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-- /X. (Amended) A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to the accumulator; the accumulator comprising:

a real time clock;

[and] means responsive to [jackpot-win information from the gaming machines and to] said real time clock: for receiving said coins-in and jackpot-win information from said gaming machines; for electronically tagging each jackpot-win in said jackpot-win information with a time and date of receipt; and for establishing jackpot values for said gaming machines based on said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information;

means for storing each said electronically tagged jackpot-win;

and means for enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines. --.

Delete claim 2.

Amend claim 3 as follows:

-- ~~2.~~ (Amended) A progressive accumulator in accordance with claim [2] 1 wherein:

said jackpot-win information includes for each jackpot-win in said jackpot-win information identification of the jackpot group won;

and said means for storing stores [table includes] the jackpot value corresponding to each [set of] stored electronically tagged jackpot-win [information].

Claim 4, line 3, delete "the".

Amend claims 5, 6 and 7 as follows:

~~4.~~ (Amended) A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to the accumulator; the accumulator comprising:

first means [responsive to] for: receiving the jackpot-win information and the coins-in information developed by

the gaming machines; for developing [progressive] jackpot [amounts] values for said jackpot groups based on said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information; said first means including programming means containing a program for operating said first means and data storage means;

P1 second means adapted to connect to an external device which is other than a gaming machine for allowing the external device to transmit messages to said first means for [changing] accessing said first means for preselected purposes [, said messages including device identification and a message type identification];

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P1 said first means [in response to each of said messages storing the device identification and message type identification in said data storage means] responding to a message for accessing said first means for a particular preselected purpose only if the message contains one or more of a device identification and a message identification;

P1 and third means enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines.

5. (Amended) An accumulator in accordance with claim 4 wherein:

P1 said first means [fails to respond to messages for changing said first means unless the messages contain device identification] in response to a message stores in said storage

means the device identification and message type identification contained in that message. --.

~~6~~ 7. (Amended) An accumulator in accordance with claim <sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub> wherein:

P1 said data storage means stores jackpot data for use by said first means in developing said jackpot values;

P1 [certain of] and said first means responds to messages [are] for [changing] accessing said first means for the purpose of gaining access to said jackpot data in said storage means and for the purpose of gaining access to said program [changing the configuration] of said programming means only if the messages contain both a device identification and a message identification. --.

Delete claim 8.

Amend claims 9-16 as follows:

-- ~~7~~ 9. (Amended) A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have a plurality of [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to the accumulator;

[said] the accumulator comprising:

P1 means for receiving said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information;

P1 [and] means responsive to said receiving means: for allocating the jackpot-win information to said jackpot groups; for permitting, but not requiring, allocation of the information in the coins-in information related to a particular coin-in to more than one but less than all of the jackpot groups; and for establishing a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group based upon the [received] coins-in information and jackpot-win information allocated to that particular jackpot group [, said means for establishing including means capable of allocating the coin-in information of a particular coin selectively to one or more of the jackpot groups];

P1 and means enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines.

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8 10. (Amended) An accumulator in accordance with claim 7 wherein:

P1 said means responsive to said receiving means [for establishing] establishes a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group by [adding] summing a base jackpot amount [to] with a further jackpot amount which is based upon [the coins] each coin-in indicated by the information related to each coin-in contained in the coins-in information allocated to the particular jackpot group.

9. (Amended) An accumulator in accordance with claim 8 wherein:

P1 said further jackpot amount for each particular jackpot group is determined by summing [adding an] increment jackpot amounts determined for [each] the indicated coins-in for that particular jackpot group. --.

10. (Amended) An accumulator in accordance with claim 9 wherein:

P1 said means responsive to said receiving means: [for establishing] determines from the information related to each coin-in contained in the coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group which one of a plurality of [increments] increment jackpot amounts is to be used for each indicated coin-in whose increment jackpot amount is to be summed to form said further jackpot amount for that particular jackpot group; and sums said determined increment jackpot amounts for the particular jackpot group to form the further jackpot amount for the particular jackpot group. --.

11. (Amended) A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and

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jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to the accumulator, [said] the accumulator comprising:

P1 means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information;

P1 and means responsive to said receiving means; for allocating the jackpot-win information and the coins-in information to the jackpot groups; for establishing a jackpot value for a particular jackpot group based upon the information related to each coin-in in the coins-in information and the jackpot-win information [associated with] allocated to that particular group, said establishing [means] including [further means capable of causing said] the capability of establishing [means to establish] at one of a plurality of levels the contribution of a particular coin-in to [the] a particular jackpot value [at one of a plurality of levels] depending upon the information in said coins-in information [corresponding] related to the particular coin-in;

P1 and means for enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines. ~~12~~ 11

12 14. (Amended) An accumulator in accordance with claim 13 wherein:

P1 each said level is a different increment jackpot amount;

P1 and said means responsive to said receiving means establishes [said establishing means determines said] each particular jackpot value by [adding to] summing with a base jackpot amount[, for each particular coin indicated by the associated coins-in information, a further] the increment jackpot amounts [equal to one of a plurality of increments] for the coins-in indicated in the information in said coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group[:]

[and said further means determines the increment to be used by said establishing means for each particular coin].

13/15. (Amended) A progressive accumulator for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to the accumulator, the [said] accumulator comprising:

P1 means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices,

P1 means responsive to said receiving means for establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon

the coins-in information and jackpot-win information [associated with the groups];

P1 means for enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines;

P1 a [jackpot] memory stack having a plurality of positions each for storing the information in said jackpot-win information [associated with] related to one jackpot-win;

P1 and means for clearing from said stack the [jackpot-win] information [associated with a won] related to a jackpot-win immediately and regardless of the position in said memory stack in which said information is stored [location of the jackpot-win information in the stack], upon receipt from the gaming machine at which the jackpot-win has [been won] occurred of a signal indicating that the jackpot-win has been cleared and for reshuffling the stack to [move jackpot-win] compress the information related to other jackpot-wins in the stack [to fill] and thus eliminate isolated empty stack positions.

14 16. A progressive accumulator in accordance with claim 13 further comprising:

P1 means for transmitting the jackpot values established by said establishing means to said gaming machines;

P1 and means for inhibiting said transmitting means from transmitting to a gaming machine where a jackpot-win has occurred [group has been won of] the jackpot value [being established by said establishing means for said] of the jackpot group of the won

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jackpot until the [storage of the jackpot] information [of]  
related to the [won] jackpot-win stored in said stack has been  
cleared from said stack. ---.

Delete claim 17.

Amend claim 18 as follows:

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18. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:

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P1 a plurality of gaming machines adapted to receive  
coins-in and one or more having [associated] jackpot groups whose  
respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in  
and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines  
[each] developing coins-in information including information  
related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including  
information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make  
said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information  
available to a progressive accumulator;

P1 and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming  
machines for determining said jackpot values comprising: a real  
time clock; [and] means responsive to [jackpot-win information  
from the gaming machines and to] said real time clock: for  
receiving said coins-in and jackpot-win information from said  
gaming machines; for electronically tagging each jackpot-win in  
said jackpot-win information with a time and date of receipt; and  
for establishing jackpot values for said gaming machines based on  
said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information; means  
for storing each said electronically tagged jackpot-win; and

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means for enabling said established jackpot values to be made  
available for supply to said gaming machines. ~~(1)~~

Delete claim 19.

Amend claims 20-31 as follows:

-- ~~16~~ <sup>15</sup> 20. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim [19] ~~18~~  
wherein:

P1 said jackpot-win information includes for each jackpot-  
win in said jackpot win information identification of the jackpot  
group won and [the] identification of the gaming machine at which  
the win occurred;

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P1 and said means for storing stores [table includes] the  
jackpot value corresponding to each [set of] stored  
electronically tagged jackpot-win information. ~~(--)~~

~~17~~ 21. (Amended) A progressive jackpot gaming system  
comprising:

P1 a plurality of gaming machines adapted to receive  
coins-in and one or more having [associated] jackpot groups whose  
respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in  
and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, [each] said gaming  
machines developing coins-in information including information  
related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including  
information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make  
said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information  
available to a progressive accumulator;

P1 and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming

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machines for developing said jackpot values comprising: first means [responsive to] for: receiving the jackpot-win information and the coins-in information developed by the gaming machines; for developing [progressive] jackpot [amounts] values for said jackpot groups based on said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information; [,] said first means including programming means containing a program for operating said first means and data storage means; second means adapted to connect to an external device which is other than a gaming machine for allowing the external device to transmit messages to said first means for [changing] accessing said first means for preselected purposes [,said messages including device identification and a message type identification]; [and] said first means [in response to each of said messages storing the device identification and message type identification in said data storage means] responding to a message for accessing said first means for a particular preselected purpose only if the message contains one or more of a device identification and a message identification; and third means enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines.

1822. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 21  
wherein:

P1 said first means [fails to respond to messages for changing said first means unless the messages contain device identification] in response to a message stores in said storage

means the device identification and message type identification contained in that message. ~~---~~

<sup>19</sup> 23. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim <sup>18</sup> 22 wherein:

P1 said data storage means stores jackpot data for use by said first means in developing said jackpot values;

P1 [certain of] and said first means responds to messages [are] for [changing] accessing said first means for the purpose of gaining access to jackpot data in said storage means and for the purpose of gaining access to said program [changing the configuration] of said programming means only if the messages contain both a device identification and a message identification. ~~---~~

<sup>20</sup> 24. A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:

P1 a plurality of gaming machines adapted to receive coins-in and one or more having a plurality of [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, [each] said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to a progressive accumulator;

P1 and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming

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machines for developing said jackpot values comprising: means for receiving said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information; [and] means responsive to said receiving means; for allocating the jackpot win information to said jackpot groups; for permitting, but not requiring, allocation of the information in the coins-in information related to a particular coin-in to more than one but less than all of the jackpot groups; and for establishing a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group based upon the [received] coins-in information and jackpot-win information allocated to that particular jackpot group [, said means for establishing including means capable of allocating the coin-in information of a particular coin selectively to one or more of the jackpot groups]; and means enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines.

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25. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 20  
wherein:

p1 said means responsive to said receiving means [for establishing] establishes a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group by [adding] summing a base jackpot amount [to] with a further jackpot amount which is based upon [the coins] each coin-in indicated by the information related to each coin-in contained in the coins-in information allocated to the particular jackpot group.

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26. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 21

wherein:

P1 said further jackpot amount for each particular jackpot group is determined by summing [adding an] increment jackpot amounts determined for [each] the indicated coins-in for that particular jackpot group. --

23 27. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 22 28

wherein:

P1 said means responsive to said receiving means: [for establishing] determines from the information related to each coin-in contained in the coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group which one of a plurality of [increments] increment jackpot amounts is to be used for each indicated coin-in whose increment jackpot amount is to be summed to form said further jackpot amount for that particular jackpot group; and sums said determined increment jackpot amounts for the particular jackpot group to form the further jackpot amount for the particular jackpot group. --

24 28. (Amended) A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:

P1 a plurality of gaming machines adapted to receive coins-in and having one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, [each] said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including

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information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to a progressive accumulator;

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p1 and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot values comprising: means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information; [and] means responsive to said receiving means: for allocationg the jackpot win information and the coins-in information to the jackpot groups; for establishing a jackpot value for a particular jackpot group based upon the information related to each coin-in in the coins-in information and the jackpot-win information [associated with] allocated to that particular group, said establishing [means] including [further means capable of causing said] the capability of establishing [means to establish] at one of a plurality of levels the contribution of a particular coin-in to [the] a particular jackpot value [at one of a plurality of levels] depending upon the information in said coins-in information [corresponding] related to the particular coin-in; and means for enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines. (--)

-- 25 28. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 28  
wherein:

p1 each said level is a different increment jackpot amount;

p1 and said means responsive to said receiving means

establishes [said establishing means determines said] each particular jackpot value by [adding to] summing with a base jackpot amount[, for each particular coin indicated by the associated coins-in information, a further] the increment jackpot amounts [equal to one of a plurality of increments] for the coins-in indicated in the information in said coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group[;]

[and said further means determines the increment to be used by said establishing means for each particular coin].

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30. (Amended) A progressive jackpot gaming system comprising:

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P1 a plurality of gaming machines adapted to receive coins-in and having one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, [each] said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available to a progressive accumulator;

P1 and a progressive accumulator responsive to said gaming machines for developing said jackpot [vlaues] values comprising: means for receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming machines; means responsive to said receiving means for establishing jackpot values for said jackpot

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groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information [associated with the groups]; means for enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines; a [jackpot] memory stack having a plurality of positions each for storing the information in said jackpot-win information [associated with] related to one jackpot-win; and means for clearing from said stack the [jackpot-win] information [associated with a won] related to a jackpot-win immediately and regardless of the position in said memory stack in which said information is stored [location of the jackpot-win information in the stack], upon receipt from the gaming machine at which the jackpot-win has [been won] occurred of a signal indicating that the jackpot-win has been cleared and for reshuffling the stack to [move jackpot-win] compress the information related to other jackpot-wins in the stack [to fill] and thus eliminate isolated empty stack positions.

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31. (Amended) A system in accordance with claim 26  
wherein:

P1 said accumulator further comprises: means for transmitting the jackpot values established by said establishing means to said gaming machines; and means for inhibiting said transmitting means from transmitting to a gaming machine where a jackpot-win has occurred [group has been won of] the jackpot value [being established by said establishing means for said] of the jackpot group of the won jackpot until the [storage of the

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jackpot] information [of] related to the [won] jackpot-win stored  
in said stack has been cleared from said stack. (23)

Delete claim 32.

Amend claim 33 as follows:

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--28.33. A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system  
in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive  
coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups  
whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the  
coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming  
machines developing coins-in information including information  
related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including  
information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make  
said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information  
available; the method comprising:

P1 receiving from said gaming machines said coins-in and  
jackpot win information;

P1 developing said jackpot values for said gaming  
[devices] machines using said received coins-in information and  
jackpot-win information;

P1 [and] electronically tagging each jackpot-win in said  
received jackpot-win information from the gaming machines with a  
time and date of receipt;

P1 storing each said electronically tagged jackpot-win;  
and enabling said developed jackpot values to be made  
available to said gaming machines. --.

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Delete claim 34.

Amend claims 35-46 as follows:

-- <sup>28</sup> ~~29~~ 35. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim [34] <sup>28</sup> ~~25~~ wherein:

P1 said jackpot-win information includes for each jackpot-win in said jackpot-win information identification [one or more] of the jackpot group won and [the] identification of the gaming machine at which the win occurred;

P1 and said storing step further [table] includes storing the jackpot value corresponding to each [set of] stored electronically tagged jackpot-win [information]. ~~---~~

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-- <sup>30</sup> ~~36~~ 36. (Amended) A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available the method comprising:

P1 receiving from said gaming machines said coins-in and jackpot-win information;

P1 using programming means containing programs for operating a first means and using data storage means contained in

said first means, developing with [progressive] said first means  
said jackpot [amounts] values for said jackpot groups from said  
received jackpot-win information and coins-in information;

P | allowing an external device which is other than a  
gaming machine to transmit messages to said first means for  
[changing] accessing said first means for preselected purposes [,  
said messages including device identification and message type  
identification];

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P | [and storing the device identification and message type  
identification in said messages in said data storage means]  
permitting said first means to respond to a message for accessing  
said first means for a particular preselected purpose only if the  
message contains one or more of a device identification and a  
message identification;

P | and enabling said developed jackpot values to be made  
available to said gaming machines.

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31. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 30  
wherein:

P | said [developing step is unaffected by messages for  
changing said means unless the messages contain device  
identification] permitting step includes storing the device  
identification and message identification contained in a message.

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38. (Amended) An method in accordance with claim 31  
wherein:

P1 said data storage means stores jackpot data for use in said developing step;

P1 [certain of said] and said permitting step is carried out by permitting said first means to respond to messages [are] for [changing] accessing said first means for the purpose of gaining access to said jackpot data in said storage means and for the purpose of gaining access to said program [changing the configuration] of said programming means only if the messages contain both device identification and a message identification. (2.5)

99 - 35: 39: (Amended) A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted to receive coins-in and to have a plurality of [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available, said method comprising:

P1 receiving said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information;

P1 allocating the jackpot-win information to said jackpot groups;

P1 permitting, but not requiring, allocation of the

information in the coins-in information related to a particular coin-in to more than one but less than all of the jackpot groups;

P1 [and] establishing a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group based upon the [received] coins-in information and jackpot-win information allocated to that particular jackpot group[, said establishing including allocating the coin-in information of a particular coin selectively to one or more jackpot groups];

P1 and enabling said established jackpot values to be made available to said gaming machines.

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40. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 33 wherein:

P1 said step of establishing [establishes] a jackpot value for each particular jackpot group is carried out by [adding] summing a base jackpot amount [to] with a further jackpot amount which is based upon [the coins] each coin-in indicated by the information related to each coin-in contained in the coins-in information allocated to the particular jackpot group.

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41. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 40 wherein:

P1 said further jackpot amount for each particular jackpot group is determined by [adding an] summing increment jackpot amounts determined for [each] the indicated coins-in for that particular jackpot group.

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42. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 41

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wherein:

P1 said establishing step includes [determines]:  
determining from the information related to each coin-in  
contained in the coins-in information allocated to a particular  
jackpot group which one of a plurality of [increments] increment  
jackpot amounts is to be used for each indicated coin-in whose  
increment jackpot amount is to be summed to form said further  
jackpot amount for that particular jackpot group; and summing  
said determined increment jackpot amounts for the particular  
jackpot group to form the further jackpot amount for the  
particular group. --.

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37  
43. (Amended) A method for use in a progressive jackpot  
gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted  
to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot  
groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon  
the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said  
gaming machines developing coins-in information including  
information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information  
including information related to each jackpot-win and being  
adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win  
information available, said method comprising:

P1 receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win  
information[.];

P1 allocating the jackpot-win information and the coins-in  
information to the jackpot groups;

P1 [and] establishing a jackpot value for a particular jackpot group based upon the information related to each coin-in in the coins-in information and the jackpot-win information allocated to [associated with] that particular group, said establishing including the capability of further establishing at one of a plurality of levels the contribution of a particular coin-in to [the] a particular jackpot value [at one of a plurality of levels] depending upon the information in said coins-in information [corresponding] related to the particular coin-in;

P1 and enabling said established jackpot values to be made available for supply to said gaming machines.

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44. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 37 wherein:

P1 each said level is a different increment jackpot amount;

P1 said establishing step includes [determines said] determining each particular jackpot value by [adding to] summing with a base jackpot amount[, for each particular coin indicated by the associated coins-in information, a further] the increment jackpot amounts [equal to one of a plurality of increments] for the coins-in indicated in the information in said coins-in information allocated to a particular jackpot group.

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45. (Amended) A method for use in a progressive jackpot gaming system in which a plurality of gaming machines are adapted

to receive coins-in and to have one or more [associated] jackpot groups whose respective jackpot values are determined based upon the coins-in and the jackpot-wins at the gaming machines, said gaming machines developing coins-in information including information related to each coin-in and jackpot-win information including information related to each jackpot-win and being adapted to make said coins-in information and said jackpot-win information available, said the method comprising:

P1 receiving coins-in information and jackpot-win information from said gaming devices,

P1 establishing jackpot values for said jackpot groups based upon the coins-in information and jackpot-win information [associated with the groups];

P1 enabling said established jackpot values to be made available to said gaming machines;

P1 providing a [jackpot] memory stack having a plurality of positions each for storing the information in said jackpot-win information [associated with] related to one jackpot-win;

P1 and clearing from said stack the [jackpot-win] information [associated with a won] related to a jackpot-win immediately and regardless of the [location of the jackpot-win information in the stack] position in said memory stack at which said information is stored, upon receipt from the gaming machine at which the jackpot-win has [been won] occurred of a signal indicating that the jackpot has been cleared and reshuffling the

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